

REMARKS

The present invention includes at least two elements that are not found in the prior art. First, the two telescopic, sliding portions of the shaft include sliding and wiping electrical contacts mounted in the hollow shaft to provide power to the light and the electromagnet in both the collapsed and extended positions. The sliding and wiping contacts are in contact with each other and are also movable relative to each other. Figures 6 – 8; pages 10 - 11, paragraph 36. Second, the present invention includes the use of rechargeable batteries. None of the cited prior art references contain these elements.

On page 4, paragraph 7, of the present office action, the Examiner states that *Boozer* "contains sliding and wiping electrical contacts (108 and 110)...in both the collapsed and extended positions." However, the Examiner has already acknowledged that *Boozer* is not telescopic. Page 3, paragraph 5, with regard to Claim 5. *Boozer* does not have collapsed and extended positions. Moreover, *Boozer* describes contacts 108 and 110 as being "bendable", their inner or proximal ends are connected, and that they are connected to the electromagnetic coil. Col.5, lines 25 – 39, and 45 – 48. No other details regarding the conductors 108, 110 are mentioned anywhere else in the patent. Thus, Applicant adamantly maintains that it is impossible to characterize *Boozer's* conductors as described in Applicant's claims.

In addition, the Examiner states that *Boozer's* "handle contains rechargeable batteries (30) and couples to a charging stand to recharge the rechargeable batteries." Office Action, page 3, paragraph 4. The Examiner cites column 4, lines 45 – 52 for this proposition. However, that text states, "...an auxiliary power supply such as a transformer-rectifier combination can be coupled to terminal 63 to permit connection to a standard 60 Hz household circuit." That text is a description of how to plug *Boozer* into a standard wall circuit to make it operate on AC current. *Boozer* does not teach one skilled in the art to use rechargeable batteries and it certainly does not mention a "charging stand" as described in Applicant's claims.

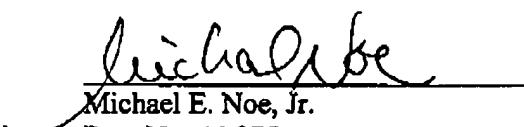
Accordingly, Claim 1 was rewritten to include "sliding and wiping electrical contacts mounted in the hollow shaft to provide power to the light and the electromagnet in both the collapsed and extended positions, the sliding and wiping contacts being in contact with and

movable relative to each other." As described above, these elements are not found in the prior art and certainly not in *Boozer*. For the reasons described above, Claim 1 now is in condition for allowance. In addition, dependent Claim 3 requires the handle to contain "rechargeable batteries and couples to a charging stand to recharge the rechargeable batteries." This combination of references is not found in any reference or in any combination of references.

Independent Claim 13 was amended to incorporate all of the language of canceled Claims 14 - 20. These elements include the clearly distinguishable, "charging stand for coupling with the handle to recharge the rechargeable batteries," "sliding and wiping electrical contacts located in the hollow shaft to provide power to the light and the electromagnet in both the collapsed and extended positions," and every other element found in the canceled claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance and favorable action is requested. No fee for an extension of time or other fees are believed to be required. However, in the event that one or more fees are required, please charge them to **Bracewell & Giuliani LLP's Deposit Account Number 50-0259**.

Respectfully submitted,


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